

LINCOLN HOTEL
BELLEVILLE ILLINOIS
ST. CLAIR Co.

HABS. NO. ILL. 229

HABS
ILL,
82. BELVI,

1.

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
DISTRICT NO. ILL. 2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
EDGAR E. LUNDEEN - DISTRICT OFFICER
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON ILL.

LINCOLN HOTEL
Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois

Present Owner. Belleville Savings Bank, trustee
for the owners of the Lincoln Hotel
Building who are John E. Carson,
R. W. Hilgard, T. J. Christman, Mamie
Hirth Neuf, and Lilian Hirth Drovetta.

Date of Erection. I.O.O.F. - 1847.
School - 1851
Hotel - 1868

Architect. Unknown.

Builder. Unknown.

Present Condition. The building has been well cared for and is in fair shape. The original portion maintains its early appearance, except for new casement sash and the insertion of narrow windows in the pilasters on the front. Additions to the building were made by the various owners as the use of the building was changed.

Number of Stories. Three.

Materials of Construction. The exterior walls are brick masonry plastered on the exterior with cement plaster. The pilasters are formed of brick with cast cement pilaster caps. The cornice is of wood and the original roof was slate, now covered with a roofing felt. Interior partitions are plaster on wood studs, floor construction is wood joist, with finish floors of pine.

Other Existing Records. None located.

Additional Data. Jefferson Lodge Number 7, of I.O.O.F. constructed the building about 1847, and later sold it to the Belleville Literary Society, which leased the building to the School Association for a public school for the sum of twenty-five hundred dollars.

In 1851, trustees were elected, they being: C. T. Ells, J. W. Pulliam, James Affleck, E. Yoerg and H. Goedecking. The Board then erected a belfry and had a bell placed in the building.

Original stockholders of the Belleville Literary Society were such distinguished men as James L. D. Morrison, Gustavus Koerner and James Shields. Others were D. M. Hopkins, Charles T. Ells, Samuel B. Chandler, William C. Kinney, Theodore Krafft, William H. Underwood, Peter Wilding, and John Reynolds, who must have been Governor Reynolds.

In a history of St. Clair County this paragraph appears: "Public schools were early kept at Belleville in Odd Fellows Hall and in the basement of the old Presbyterian Church. John F. Parks and a Mr. Edwards taught in Odd Fellows Hall.

The Belleville Literary Society was a society formed of public-spirited citizens of Belleville in educational interests. A meeting was held at the Court House, July 24, 1850, to organize the society.

Wilderman's History of St. Clair County states that in September 1863, the trustees of the Literary Society declared their definite intention to sell the Literary Hall


and the furniture therein, and gave notice to the school to vacate said hall within sixty days from September 26, 1863.

At the meeting of January 26, 1867, the treasurer reported that the Literary Hall was vacated by the school directors, the keys of the hall delivered, and the rent was paid. Later, the hall was offered to the City Council for a City Hall for \$5,500.00, but this offer was not accepted. February 20, 1868, we find the following record: "We, the undersigned stockholders of the Belleville Literary Society hereby acknowledge the receipt of \$125.00, per share in full and hereby assign for value received, all right, title and interest in the Belleville Literary Hall to Russell Hinckley."

After Mr. Hinckley took over Odd Fellows Hall from the Literary Society, he converted it into a hotel, and this establishment was then known as the Hinckley House. The name of the building was changed to "Lincoln Hotel" early in the twentieth century.

References: Wilderman's History of St. Clair County.
Belleville Directory 1860 and 1877.
Henry C. G. Schrader of the St. Clair
Guaranty and Title Company.
Belleville News-Democrat, 1934.

(Approved)


District Officer

Reviewed Aug. 3, 36 HCU